PRESENT—*cont.*

Ramaswami Mudaliyar, Mr. V. M.
Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. A.
Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. G.
Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. M. D T.
Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar, Rao Bahadur C. S.
Sahajanandam, Swami A. S.
Sami Venkatachalam Chettiar, Mr.
Satyanarayana Choudari, Mr. C.
Sesha Reddi, Mr. B. P.
Shetty, Mr. A. B.
Simhachalam Pantulu, Mr. Gade.
Singam Ayyangar, Mr. K.
Siva Raj, Mr. N.
Sivasubrahmanya Ayyar, Mr. K. S.
Soundara Pandian, Mr. W. P. A.
Sreshta, Mr. M. S.
Srinivasa Ayyangar, Mr. T. C.
Sriramulu, Mr. G.
Subbarayan, Dr. P.
Subrahmaniam Chettiyar, Rao Sahib P.
Subrahmania Bhat, Mr. U. C.
Sundara Rao Nayudu, Mr. T.
Syed Tajudin Sahib Bahadur, Khan Sahib.
Thomas, Daniel, Mr.
Vasudeva Pillai, Mr. V. G.
Vedachala Mudaliyar, Mr. M.
Venkatarama Ayyar, Mr. K. R.
Venkataramayya, Rao Sahib Badeti.
Venugopala Nayudu, Rao Sahib R. K.
Watson, I.C.S., Mr. H. A.
Yahya Ali Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur.
Yakub Hasan Sahib Bahadur.
Zamindar of Bodinayakkanur.
Zamindar of Ettiayapuram.
Zamindar of Minampalli.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

Registration

Number of Sub-Registrars in South Kanara.

* 11 *Q*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the number of sub-registrars employed in South Kanara and the communities to which they belong?

A.—The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the latest list of officers of the Registration Department.

Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—" May I know, Sir, whether in making these appointments hereafter in the South Kanara district, the claims of the communities hitherto unrepresented in this department will be considered?"

The hon. Mr. P. T. RAJAN:—" The question of making appointments in the Registration Department is now guided by the Communal Government Order, and in the matter of appointments to the South Kanara district, my hon. Friend's suggestion will be considered."

Floods

Floods in the districts of Trichinopoly and Tanjore.

*12 *Q.*—Swami A. S. SAHAJANANDAM: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of the floods in the southern districts of Trichinopoly, Tanjore, etc., and the loss sustained by the poor ryots; and

(*b*) if so, what steps have been taken by the Government for the relief of the distressed?

A.—(*a*) Yes, in Tanjore, Trichinopoly and Coimbatore.

(*b*) On the application of the Collectors, the Government have sanctioned special grants of money for the relief of distress. Relief committees have been formed in all the districts and the

measures taken have varied according to the necessities of the situation. Destitute refugees have been fed and clothed; funds have been granted to the homeless to rebuild their houses and in the Trichinopoly district co-operative societies are being formed for this purpose; paddy seed is being distributed; and employment is being found in the repair and reconstruction of roads, irrigation works and railways. [a] Copies of the more important reports received on the subject are laid on the table.

Mr. M. DEVADASAN :—"May I know, Sir, whether this relief to the distressed people includes relief to the depressed classes?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—"I think the answer to that will be found in the answer to the next question No. 13."

Rao Bahadur C. S. RATNASABHAPATI MUDALIYAR :—"May I know whether with a view to relieve the distress, when final detailed reports are received, the Government will be pleased to enhance the contribution of Rs. 10,000 which they are now making?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—"If it is necessary and if applications are received for such enhancement of the contribution, the question will be considered."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"May I know, Sir, whether in view of the fact that floods and consequent damages in those districts are of frequent occurrence, the Government have taken any steps to carry out any scheme in the Cauvery delta area, with a view to divert the upland drainage into the Coleroon?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—"If the hon. Member refers to the diversion of flood water from the Vennar, yes, Sir. A scheme is now being carried out with a view to divert a portion of the flood water from the uplands just above the Grand Anicut into the Cauvery and thence into the Coleroon."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—"I am referring, Sir, to the proposal to divert a large part of the upland flood water above the Kachamangalam anicut into the Coleroon."

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—"If the hon. Member wants further details, I must ask for notice of that question."

Mr. S. N. DORAI RAJA :—"Since it is a well-known fact that Kallars are very poor people and most of them are agriculturists, will the Government be pleased to take immediate steps to give relief to the Kallars who are very badly affected?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL :—"The local officers have taken all possible steps they can to give relief to poor people. If any representation is specially made to the Government, it will be considered."

Khan Bahadur P. KHALIF-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur :—"Will the Government be pleased to give a rough idea at least of the losses in the Tanjore and Trichinopoly districts in view of the fact that the hon. the Revenue Member toured those districts recently?"

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[a] Printed separately.

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The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—"It is not possible to give any estimates that might be regarded as even approximately accurate in spite of such personal knowledge as I have obtained, for it is only recently that the flood water began to recede in a large part of the land that was flooded. We have however called for estimates of the damage, and I should be pleased to place them on the table of the House as soon as they are received."

Khan Bahadur P. Khalif-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur :—"Will the hon. Member be pleased to state what is the actual grant of money that has been made to the Trichinopoly and Tanjore districts?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—"These figures are given in the statements laid on the table of the House."

Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"Can the hon. Member give us any information as to what effect has been given to Colonel Smart's Scheme of 1903 or 1904?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—"I must ask for notice of the question."

Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"May I know what steps have been taken to send down the flood water through the Coleroon river instead of through the Cauvery?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—"I have already answered that question to some extent in my answer to my Friend, Mr. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar."

Rao Sahib V. I. Muniswami Pillai :—"May I know whether any steps have been taken to provide employment for poor agricultural labourers who have been affected by the recent floods?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—"Those that have been affected by the floods have obtained employment in certain places where repairs are being executed to railways, roads and irrigation works. I beleive those works are still going on."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—"Have Government any idea of the extent of the damage to crops caused in the Tanjore and Trichinopoly districts, and if so, what will be the probable amount of remission that will be made?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—"I have already said that we have called for information as to the extent of the damage to land and crops and so on, and it is too early yet to give expression to any definite opinion as to the extent of damage to crops."

Mr. S. N. Dorai Raja :—"Having regard to the fact that for a long time it has been overdue, will the Government kindly consider whether a committee should not be appointed immediately to see that in future the effects of such disastrous floods are mitigated?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—"I am quite prepared to consider the question whether the appointment of such a committee would be necessary, after we receive the reports that have been called for."

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Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" Are the Government aware of the fact that much of the present damage is due to the fact that there is no particular scheme by which all flood and rain water can be drained from the delta area ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—" We cannot prevent floods altogether but a report on measures to mitigate the effects of floods has been called for."

Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" Are the Government aware that in two places during the recent floods, troubles arose between the Railway authorities and the village people about the cutting of embankments, that the railway people wanted to close breaches, while the village people did not want them to do so, in order to preserve the safety of their lands ?

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—" I am not sure whether we have any information to that effect."

Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" The information is contained in report No. V of the reports supplied this morning to the hon. Members of this House—paragraph 5."

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—" Yes, I see it there. I remembered having read it somewhere, but did not remember whether it was in the reports or in the newspapers."

Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" Will the Government consider the desirability of making arrangements to let down flood water through more culverts in railway embankments, and prevent the causing of damage to the delta area ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—" Yes, Sir ; I will call for a report on that aspect of the case."

Khan Bahadur Mahmud Schamnad Sahib Bahadur :—" Are the Government aware that the Government of India caused an enquiry to be made as to the effect of Railway bridges and embankments in causing excessive floods in the country and what the result of that enquiry was ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—" I must ask for notice of that question.

Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" With regard to the drainage of flood water through the Cauvery and the Coleroon, may I know what is the principle that is being followed, whether the Coleroon alone is expected to take all the flood water or some water is also to be allowed into the Cauvery and its branches ? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—" As far as possible, the water is sent into the Coleroon. This time the flood water was so large in volume that the Coleroon could not take the whole of it and some portion had to be let into the Cauvery. But as to how much of water can be safely let into the Cauvery is a matter for the opinion of experts, and this question as also the extent of the flood and the measures taken to mitigate it, will no doubt be dealt with in the reports which have been called for."

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Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" Are the Government aware that this is not an exceptional year so far as breaches in the Cauvery are concerned? Even last year there were breaches in certain places, though there were not abnormal floods."

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—" No, Sir, I believe the floods this year are quite exceptional."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar :—" With a view to make the Coleroon carry the flood water to a larger extent than now, I believe there are a number of proposals connected with the Coleroon river; for instance, have improvements to the Lower anicut and raising the flood banks of the Coleroon been carried out?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—" Yes; certain proposals have been made in connexion with the Coleroon; but as regards the nature of the works and the exact work now being carried on, I must ask notice of the question."

Mr. S. N. Dorai Raja :—" With his usual sympathy for the poor, the hon. the Revenue Member has been recently to the Tanjore district. Will he be pleased to give us approximately the extent of relief that he thinks necessary there?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—" I am afraid it is not possible for me to do so; when I was there, a large part of the country was still under water and it was not possible then to say to what extent damage had been done. It was also not possible to see all the places affected personally, as the roads were impassable."

Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar :—" Has the Government considered the desirability of adopting, in the case of the Cauvery delta also, the same principle as obtains in the Godavari and Kistna deltas and sending the whole of the floods through the Coleroon without using the Cauvery also to carry the flood water?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—" I believe that is the object aimed at here also, that is, it is intended that the Coleroon should carry most of the flood water. Of course a very important work which the Government are now carrying out is the construction of the Mettur dam which, when completed, will act as a flood regulator. When there are local floods in consequence of heavy rain, in the Tanjore and Trichinopoly districts, the flow of water in the Cauvery above Mettur can be checked at the reservoir."

Relief to the Adi-Dravidas affected by floods.

11-15 a.m. * 13 *Q.*—Swami A. S. Sahajanandam : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) what steps have been taken by the Government for the relief of the Adi-Dravidas whose huts have been washed away by the recent floods; and

(*b*) whether the Government have any idea of providing homeless people with houses?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the answer given to-day to question No. 12. The destitute and homeless persons there referred to no doubt include Adi-Dravida .